

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 8305

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LIMDIS

FOR ARA ROGERS AND LUERS FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CO

SUBJ: LOPEZ STATE VISIT: CHECK LIST ON EVENTS AND SCHEDULING

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A ROUNDUP OF THOSE PENDING IMPORTANT PROCEDURAL ITEMS WHICH I THINK MERIT YOUR ATTENTION. THIS SHOULD SERVE AS SOMETHING OF A CHECKLIST FOR YOU TO DISCUSS WITH AMB TURBAY, WHO WANTS TO TALK TO YOU AS SOON AS HE RETURNS. (HE HAS DELAYED HIS DEPARTURE FROM HERE UNTIL FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5). MY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON ARE UNDERPINNED BY A) THE PREMISE THAT AS THE FIRST LA CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO MAKE A STATE VISIT, THIS VISIT HAS SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE AND WARRANTS SOME PROCEDURAL/PROTOCOLARY "ICING ON THE CAKE", AND B) THE SENSITIVITY OF LOPEZ AS A PERSON AND THE ACCENTUATED PERSONALISM THAT MARKS THE COLOMBIAN CHARACTER. IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS IN THIS VISIT, WE WILL HAVE TO WORK THROUGH THESE CHARACTERISTICS. THE VISIT CAN BE GREAT SUCCESS IF WE HANDLE LOPEZ RIGHT; IT WILL BE A DISASTER IF WE DO NOT.

2. MAJOR ITEMS TO CONSIDER:

A) SUBSTANTIVE TALKS. PRESIDENT LOPEZ IS PRESSING HARD FOR ONE-ON-ONE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND WITH THE SECRETARY. HE IS ADAMANT AGAINST A MEETING WITH SEVERAL ADVISORS.

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I HAVE EXPLAINED THAT FROM OUR SIDE THE PRINCIPALS DO NOT DO THIS,

AND THAT THEY WOULD WANT TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE OR TWO WITH THEM. BUT I HAVE BEEN PRESSED ON ALL SIDES, AND TURBAY PLANS TO TAKE THIS UP WITH ROGERS. I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD FIGHT LOPEZ, BUT RATHER TRY TO ACCOMMODATE HIM TO THE EXTENT WE CAN. FOR EXAMPLE, I WOULD RECOMMEND A WORKING LUNCH (OR A WORK SESSION) FOR THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH LOPEZ OF JUST LOPEZ, THE SECRETARY, AND ROGERS. LOPEZ DOES NOT COME OFF WELL IN GROUPS, AND HE WILL PULL HIS PUNCHES AND JUST CLOSE UP IF THERE ARE SEVERAL PEOPLE IN THE ROOM. WE WILL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES OF CEMENTING PERSONAL RELATIONS, OF REALLY KNOWING WHAT HE THINKS AND OF HAVING HIM OPEN UP TO US, IF WE CAN STAY AS CLOSE TO ONE ON ONE AS POSSIBLE.

B) SECOND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT. AS YOU KNOW I STRONGLY RECOMMEND A SECOND FAREWELL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD. THIS NEED NOT BE A LONG ONE, PERHAPS 15 MINUTES; PERHAPS, THE PRESIDENT COULD HEAD THE FAREWELL COMMITTEE. THIS WAS DONE BY PRESIDENT NIXON WITH CARLOS LLERAS, AND LOPEZ, WHO WAS THEN FOREIGN MINISTER, KNOWS IT. SUCH A SECOND MEETING WILL BE THE KIND OF GESTURE THAT COULD MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

C) OFFICIAL PARTY. AS FAR AS I KNOW NOW, THE OFFICIAL PARTY WILL INCLUDE FOUR MINISTERS (FINANCE, DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS). (IT WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, HIS SON FELIPE AND HIS WIFE AND PROBABLY TWO MAYORS, INCLUDING THE NEWLY NAMED MAYOR OF BOGOTA). THUS IT WILL BE A HIGH RANKING PARTY. WE OUGHT TO BE PREPARED TO SCHEDULE SPECIFIC MEETINGS FOR THEM (BOTERO HAS ALREADY INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE A SESSION WITH SECRETARY SIMON). I HOPE TO HAVE A LIST OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY IN A FEW DAYS. IF THE SECRETARY HAS A SMALL WORKING LUNCH WITH LOPEZ PER (A) ABOVE, PERHAPS A PARALLEL LUNCH FOR THE REST OF THE PARTY COULD BE HOSTED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY; OR PERHAPS INDIVIDUAL COUNTERPARTS MIGHT HOST SMALL LUNCHESES SIMULTANEOUSLY. IN ANY CASE WE WILL HAVE TO GRAPPLE WITH THE ISSUE OF WHAT TO DO WITH SUCH A HIGH RANKING GROUP.

D) WIVES. TO KEEP WITHIN THE LIMIT OF 12, WIVES WILL NOT BE COUNTED IN THE PARTY EXCEPT FOR MRS. LOPEZ, MRS. TURBAY AND THE WIFE OF LOPEZ' SON. HOWEVER, THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT, AT LEAST, ARE GOING TO BRING ALONG THEIR WIVES AS CONFIDENTIAL

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"UNOFFICIAL". THUS WE HAVE A PROBLEM OF BEING GRACIOUS AND PROPER AND AVOIDING RESENTMENTS (WHATEVER THE RULES SAY). THE QUESTIONS ARE, CAN THESE WIVES BE PUT UP AT BLAIR HOUSE WITH THEIR HUSBANDS, AND CAN THEY BE INVITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE BANQUET. I THINK WE HAVE TO SAY YES ON BOTH COUNTS. TURBAY IS GOING TO RAISE THIS WITH YOU.

E) RETURN RECEPTION. YOU KNOW OF THE FLAP OVER THE VICE

PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE WHICH I HOPE WILL NOW BE FAVORABLY RESOLVED (SEE ALSO F BELOW). TURBAY WILL ALSO RAISE WITH YOU (AGAIN) THE QUESTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE. I HOPE CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN IN RESPONDING TO THAT TO THE SYMBOLIC DIMENSIONS OF THIS VISIT, AND THE CHANCE FOR PRESIDENT FORD TO DEMONSTRATE INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA.

F) THE VICE PRESIDENT. PRESIDENT LOPEZ LIKES THE VICE PRESIDENT, AND CONSIDERS HIM A FRIEND, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE VICE PRESIDENT APPARENTLY KNEW LOPEZ' FATHER. THEREFORE, IN ADDITION TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE AT THE RECEPTION, LOPEZ WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH HIM. GIVEN THIS FEELING THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT IS A FRIEND, IF HE DOES NOT DO SOMETHING, LOPEZ WILL FEEL DEEPLY HURT AND REBUFFED.

G) CONGRESS. MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND, SEPARATELY, OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH LIEVANO. THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED, PROVIDED THE MEETINGS ARE INFORMAL AND OFF THE RECORD (FORTUNATELY, HE DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE SPEECHES OR EVEN QUOTABLE REMARKS). I HOPE THIS CAN BE ARRANGED; IT WOULD BE USEFUL. LOPEZ WILL PROBABLY WANT TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS ON PANAMA, OR AT LEAST WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS ON IT.

H) COMMUNIQUE. THE COLOMBIANS IN GOOD LATIN FASHION WANT A JOINT STATEMENT OR COMMUNIQUE SAYING WHAT HAPPENED. THEY FEEL VERY, VERY STRONGLY THAT THEY NEED SOMETHING LIKE THIS, AT LEAST FOR BACK HOME. ACTUALLY, WE HAVE AT LEAST THREE POSSIBLE THINGS TO SAY --PHASE OUT OF AID BECAUSE COLOMBIA "GRADUATED", HOLDING OF SENIOR LEVEL TRADE TALKS, AND AGREEMENT TO REASSESS DARIEN GAP PROBLEM (AND PERHAPS REENERGIZE THE PROJECT). (PERHAPS AS FRANK DEVINE SUGGESTS, WE COULD ALSO ANNOUNCE REOPENING OF BARRANQUILLA).

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I) TRIP TO NEW YORK. THE TRIP TO NEW YORK IS PRIVATE. "TALKS WITH BANKERS" IS THE WAY IT IS DESCRIBED. THIS WAS SET UP BY THE PRESIDENT'S SON, ALFONSO. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT NOW PLANS TO GO UP ON SATURDAY THE 27TH WHICH MEANS HE WILL HAVE SUNDAY THE 28TH IN NEW YORK. PROTOCOL SHOULD OFFER TO SCHEDULE THINGS FOR HIM IF HE WANTS TO --I.E. SEE A PLAY, MUSEUM, ETC. (PERHAPS THE VICE PRESIDENT COULD HOST AT POCANTICO). LOPEZ UNDERSTANDING (AND MINE) IS THAT WE WILL PAY FOR LODGING THE OFFICIAL PARTY.

J) SECOND SON. I CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SON, ALFONSO, IS CURRENTLY WORKING IN NEW YORK FOR THE COFFEE FEDERATION. THUS THERE WILL BE TWO SONS WITH HIM, ALFONSO AND FELIPE HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY (AND THEIR WIVES).

K) ARRIVAL. LOPEZ PLANS TO TRAVEL TO MIAMI ON THE PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT. HE UNDERSTANDS HE WILL BE PICKED UP THERE BY USAF AND FLOWN TO WILLIAMSBURG. I PRESUME SOME GRACIOUS LEVEL OF RECEPTION AT MIAMI IS PROGRAMMED.
VAKY

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